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mons is somewhat wider in scope than that of the essays considered above. The volume constitutes one in the series of "Selections and Documents in Economics," edited by Professor Ripley, of Harvard University, and includes, besides "symposiums" and court decisions, the writings of some eighteen different contributors. With most of the material included economists are generally familiar, but the assembling of the material in one volume provides an excellent textbook for classes making a study of labor problems. Included in the selections are papers by Professor Commons upon "Trade Agreements," "The Teamsters of Chicago," "The New York Building Trades," "Labor Conditions in Slaughtering and Meat-Packing," "The Sweating System in the Clothing Trade," and "Slavs in Coal Mining;" a paper upon "The Miners' Union: Its Business Management," by Frank Julian Warne; upon "The Chicago Building Trades Dispute of 1900," by Ernest L. Bogart; two symposiums deal respectively with "Incorporation of Trade Unions," and "The Negro Artisan;" two chapters present "Court Decisions in Labor Disputes," and "Regarding State Regulation of Employment;" the other papers treat of "State arbitration and the Minimum Wage in Australasia," "Introduction of the Linotype," "Premium Plan of Paying for Labor," "Employment and Wages of Women and Girls," "Hours of Labor," "Apprenticeship," "Labor Legislation," "Trade Union Benefits," "Employers' Liability," and "Workingmen's Insurance."

It would quite exceed the limits of a review to undertake any detailed comments upon these papers further than to observe that the editor has, we believe, succeeded in his effort to create something more than "merely a handy volume for reference, or collection of original documents," and has in fact produced a textbook, or rather case-book, thereby carrying out Professor Ripley's intention of extending the *case system* to the teaching of economics.

JOHN CUMMINGS

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The Comedy of Protection. By YVES GUYOT. Translated by M. A. Hamilton. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1906. 8vo, pp. xxxi+325.

The author of the *Comedy* points out that he might have given his treatise a more sounding title than the one he has chosen, such as "The Protectionist Tyranny," or "The Protectionist Oligarchy," or the "Work of Death," but that he has preferred comedy to

tragedy, "because there is much more food for laughter than anger in the behavior of Protectionists."

Call them [i. e., protectionists] *Méline* or *Chamberlain*, their behavior is always the same. They are men with a purpose disguised as something else: in their search for plausible pretexts they shrink from no absurdities, importing the miraculous into the hard facts of science. A long familiarity with deceit prevents their distinguishing truth from error, and though facts persistently give them the lie, they still call them to their aid. . . . While they promote private interests inconsistent with the general good, they dub themselves patriots and benefactors, and declare that their opponents are traitorous robbers who have sold themselves to the foreigner; they devote themselves to such fatuous tasks as the weighting of the balance of trade and the defence of a depreciated currency. . . . [The protectionist] says to the electorate, "I will make you rich by imposing a tax on you which brings in profit to me." Then the majority applauds lustily and hands over part of what it has to him.

The above paragraph will sufficiently indicate the spirit in which the tariff history of European countries and of the United States is reviewed in this treatise. The author is well fortified in his conclusions with statistical data. Tables are generally brought down to the year 1905, and the author shows himself to be more or less familiar with the historical development of trade policies, from the days of *Colbert* to the rise of *Chamberlainism* in England. Moreover, as may be inferred from the above selection, the author is master of a peculiarly effective style, which appears to have been well preserved in the translation. In its best portions the treatise is perhaps the sprightliest piece of economic writing which has been done into English for some years, but it is of uneven quality. The jauntiness with which pages of statistics are carried off is truly remarkable. In economic texts the case against protection has been so often made out that the arguments are familiar to all, and it is probably true that there is little, if anything, new to be added on either side, except as experience each year, or more thorough historical research, presents new data to be examined in light of the old arguments. Many will feel that *M. Guyot* is biased, that he is an advocate and therefore unscientific. It would perhaps be fairer to say that he is inspired with a conviction and a purpose..

Having followed the historical development of trade policies in France, *M. Guyot* devotes several chapters to a discussion of the consequences of protection in that country, entitling this section of his essay "The Work of Death." Here the insufficient diet of a

considerable portion of the French population, especially the children of the poor, is discussed at length. Following this are sections devoted respectively to Mr. Chamberlain's program in England, to protection in the United States, and to the system of national economy in Germany. In Book XI "protectionist postulates" are set out over against "economic realities," and in the concluding book the author devotes a few pages to a presentation of his own "immediate programme." If M. Guyot had not written the *Comedy of Protection*, it must have been done by Bastiat—at least the better portion of it.

We do not feel, however, that the handling of legislative details is particularly effective. One who turns to the section devoted to the account of protection in the United States is impressed by its scrappiness and incoherency, which amounts in some cases to inaccuracy. Were we not familiar with the way foreign economists handle American economic history, the inclusion of the following summary of our tariff legislation in a treatise which is in many respects admirable would seem incredible:

An attempt to aggravate it [i. e., what the South called the "legalized robbery" instituted by the act of 1828] in 1832 led to the Clay compromise in 1833, which provided that all duties were gradually to diminish until 1842, when all were to be reduced to 20 per cent. and a revenue tariff established. It was completed by the high revenue tariff of 1846. The Republican party, founded in 1856, made protection an article in its programme, but the fiscal surplus of 1857 caused a reduction to a scale below that of 1816. During the Civil War two tariffs, August 5 and December 24, 1861, raised duties in order to obtain revenue.

With this summing-up the writer passes to the Act of 1883. Such a summary is, of course, valueless and misleading, especially the inference that our important war tariffs were those of 1861. The act of August 5 imposed duties on certain articles which had been admitted free, and the act of December 24 put duties on tea and coffee, and raised the duty on sugar. The important war tariffs of course come later but they are not adverted to. A few pages on, in discussing the campaign of 1904, it is stated that:

In certain states, for example Massachusetts, although Roosevelt polled a majority, the Democratic candidate was elected a governor, which showed that there were free traders among those who contributed to his overwhelming success.

Undoubtedly free traders voted for Mr. Roosevelt, but certainly American politics is not quite so simple as M. Guyot conceives it to be.

J. C.

James Gillespie Blaine. By EDWARD STANWOOD. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1905. 8vo, pp. 377.

In view of Mr. Blaine's prominence as a champion of the protective system and of reciprocity, one might have expected to find more of interest to an economist in his biography. The absence of any extended discussion of Mr. Blaine's trade policies is probably explained in the fact that his biographer, Mr. Stanwood, has written a two-volume account of *American Tariff Controversies in the Nineteenth Century*, in which much material has been introduced which might properly have constituted a portion of the biography. We cannot help feeling that the biography loses character from this omission, and from the introduction of a somewhat too lengthy account of certain private transactions admittedly more or less compromising. The reader feels that the author is rather an apologist than a biographer, and even that he has not done full justice to Mr. Blaine's astuteness as a politician. Certainly the appeal is rather to those whose interests are not primarily economic.

J. C.